

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DACCA 00123 070531Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00
INRE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 OPR-02 SY-05 AID-05 /062 W
-----070536Z 099731 /12

O R 070501Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY DACCA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3170
INFO AMCONSUL CALCUTTA
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
USIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L DACCA 0123

E.O. 11652 GDS
TAGS: PINS, PINT, BG
SUBJ: GRENADE EXPLOSION AT USIS CENTER AMONG SEVERAL
INCIDENTS IN CHITTAGONG

1. BANGLADESHI DIRECTOR OF AMERICAN CENTER IN
CHITTAGONG REPORTS THAT A HAND GRENADE WAS THROWN FROM
PASSING VEHICLE JUST AFTER SIX P.M. JANUARY 6 AGAINST SIDE
OF USIS BUILDING. EXPLOSION DAMAGED A NUMBER OF WINDOWS
IN CENTER AND SLIGHTLY INJURED ONE BANGLADESHI
LECTURER WHO WAS VISITING CENTER. (USIS IS REPORTING
TO USIA IN ACCORDANCE WITH 2 FAM 182.4, WITH INFO TO
SECSTATE).

2. CENTER DIRECTOR ALSO REPORTS THAT THERE WERE AT
LEAST SEVEN INCIDENTS OF SIMILAR NATURE IN CHITTAGONG
CITY SAME EVENING AND THERE ARE INDICATIONS THAT AS
MANY AS FOUR PERSONS WERE KILLED. ONE NEWSPAPER REPORT
(SANGBAD) STATES THERE WERE EIGHT TO TEN INCIDENTS BUT
DOES NOT NOTE ANY DEATHS. ACCORDING TO OFFICIAL NEWS
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AGENCY REPORT THERE WERE ALSO TWO INCIDENTS ON JANUARY 5
AND SEVERAL PERSONS WERE ARRESTED IN THAT CONNECTION.

3. CENTER DIRECTOR SAYS THAT POLICE HAVE BEEN POSTED AT
CENTER AND THAT POLICE ARE IN MUCH GREATER EVIDENCE IN
CITY THAN USUAL. HE ADDS THAT POLICE COOPERATION FOLLOWING
INCIDENT WAS EXCELLENT.

4. COMMENT: WHILE REPORTS OF "MISCREANT" ACTIVITY HAVE GENERALLY CENTERED IN RECENT MONTHS ON MYMENSINGH AND TANGAIL DISTRICTS, THERE ARE INCREASING INDICATIONS THAT SECURITY SITUATION IN SOUTH EASTERN PORTION OF COUNTRY IS NOT WELL. THESE INCIDENTS IN CHITTAGONG CITY ARE FIRST TO HAVE MADE PRESS SINCE OCTOBER (SEE 76 DACCA 5811), BUT BDG HAS RECENTLY CLOSED ENTIRE CHITTAGONG HILL TRACTS DISTRICT TO FOREIGNERS EXCEPT THOSE WITH SPECIAL PERMISSION (PREVIOUSLY TOURIST CENTERS AT KAPTAI AND RANGAMATI AND ROADS TO THEM WERE OPEN). REPORTS OR RUMORS OF URBAN INCIDENTS HAVE INCREASED ALSO (SEE 76 DACCA 6363 REPORTING INCIDENT IN DACCA CITY). WE DO NOT KNOW WHO PERPETRATED EVENTS OF JANUARY 5 AND 6 IN CHITTAGONG, AND PROBABLY POLICE ARE NOT SURE EITHER, BUT IT SEEMS LIKELY JSD AND/OR INDIANS WILL BE CREDITED IN PUBLIC MIND, QUILTY OR NOT.
MASTERS

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 07-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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